



PLANNING FOR PET OWNERS: WHAT EMERGENCY MANAGERS NEED TO KNOW

JOANNE BOURBEAU

NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR, HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE U.S.(HSUS)
CHAIR, VERMONT DISASTER ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM(VDART)

IMPACT OF DISASTERS ON PEOPLE AND PETS



- Health: death, injury, illness, shock (mental & physical)
- Isolation, disorientation, loss of normal social interaction
- Homelessness, joblessness
- Difficulty obtaining clean food and water
- Loss of clothing and belongings



BAD SITUATIONS MADE WORSE

- No animal control or animal shelter
- Substandard animal control or animal shelter
- Cruelty situations
- Animal hoarders
- Exotic animal facilities/owners with no emergency plan



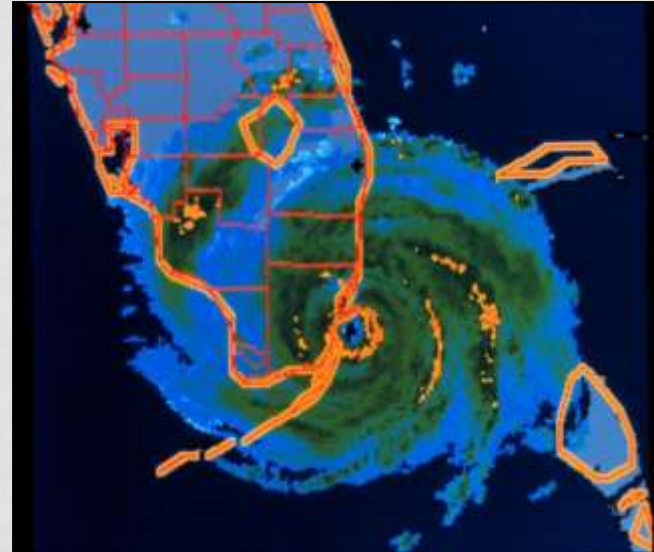
IMPACT OF NOT PLANNING FOR PETS

- Disease, injury or death of residents and responders
- Intensive relief efforts
- Stress, anxiety, grief, and depression
- Potential media nightmare - emotional issue for public



HURRICANE ANDREW

- First major animal disaster
- People told to leave pets behind
- Homes destroyed, pets escaped in fear
- Disoriented wandering pets, no system to ID and reunite



HURRICANE KATRINA

- Largest animal rescue operation in U.S. history.
- 1,800 people died.
- Thousands of animals died.
- 15,000 animals rescued
- 20% pets reunited.
- HSUS assisted with sheltering of more than 8,000 animals in LA and MS
- Local and national animal groups raised \$70 million for pet rescue efforts



FRITZ INSTITUTE-HARRIS INTERACTIVE KATRINA SURVEY

- Government agencies, non-profit organizations and families were not well-prepared with evacuation plans and services essential to relief and recovery for a disaster of this magnitude
- **The reasons 42% stayed behind were more complex than reported**
 - Nearly 1/3 (32%) of non-evacuees made the affirmative choice to stay behind for other reasons
 - Not wanting to leave homes (82%)
 - **Not wanting to leave pets (44%)**
 - Not wanting to leave relatives (18%)
- Non-governmental organizations (32%) provided the most immediate assistance in the first 48 hours



SUPER STORM SANDY



(Photo: By Mehdi Taamallah, AFP/Getty Images)

RESCUE NUMBERS (HSUS)

Ocean County Animals Rescued

Species	Total
Cats	242
Dogs	6
Birds	17
Pocket Pets	16
Rabbits	3
Reptiles	10
Snakes	3
Fish	5
Total	302

Monmouth County Animals Rescued

Species	Total
Cats	38
Dogs	6
Birds	2
Iguanas	3
Snakes	1
Total	50

*ON KISWICK STREET, WHERE MR. CONTRUBIS DROWNED,
FIREFIGHTER GUIDA CAME ACROSS FOUR MEMBERS OF A
STRANDED FAMILY AND THEIR LARGE DOG.*

*“WE COULDN’T GET THEM IN THE
BOAT WITH THE DOG . . .
THEY MADE A HEART-WRENCHING
DECISION TO STAY WITH THE DOG,
AND THEY GAVE US THEIR CHILDREN.”
(THE PARENTS SURVIVED.)*

*“HOW A BEACH COMMUNITY BECAME A DEATHTRAP”
THE NEW YORK TIMES, NOVEMBER 11, 2012*

Nearly four days after the storm, police officers emerged from a bungalow on Olympia Boulevard carrying two corpses in body bags. Officials were trying to confirm the victims' full names, but their landlord said they were siblings. The brother, David, was 65, and the sister, Charlotte, was in her mid-70s.

They had died with their dogs, cats, birds, a rabbit and a hamster. If they were unable to evacuate their entire menagerie, they had told the landlord, they were going to stay home.

*"How a Beach Community Became a Deathtrap"
The New York Times, November 11, 2012*

TROPICAL STORM IRENE



MAKING THE CONNECTION

- *Assisting animals in disasters is not a question of putting animals above people*
- Helping animals is supporting people by taking care of what is important to them
- The human/animal bond is never more important to people than in situations of extreme stress
- Animal issues ARE people issues



Special to the Chronicle / Sean Gardner

PET OWNERSHIP STATS

- 62% of households in the United States include animals (164 million owned pets)
- Pets are usually considered “family members” by their humans (by 6 out of 10 pet owners)
- **Vermont has the highest per capita rate of pet ownership in the country—71% of households!**
- There are more pets than children in the U.S.



HOW MANY PETS ARE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Statistics/Pages/US-pet-ownership-calculator.aspx Pet Ownership Calculator

Contact | Join | My Store | Career Center | Sign In

AVMA
WE ARE VETERINARY MEDICINE

Member Center | News & Publications | Professional Development | Economics & Practice | Advocacy | Meetings & Events | About AVMA | Knowledge Base

You are here: Home | Knowledge Base | Resources | Market Research Statistics

FAQs
Literature Reviews
Market Research Statistics >
Reference Guides
Reports

Pet Ownership Calculator

Estimate the number of pet owning households and number of pets in your community by entering the community population* in the box below.

See the [formulas](#) section for information on how these numbers are calculated.

What is your community population*?

2000

	Number of Pet Owning Households	Pet Population
Dogs	281	449
Cats	234	491
Birds	24	55
Horses	12	32

[Clear all data](#)

* Number of people in your community, not the number of households

Get AVMA Newsletters

MOST VIEWED PAGES MOST SHARED

- [Pet Food & Product Recalls/Warnings](#)
- [Accreditation](#)
- [Veterinary Career Center](#)
- [Dog Bite Prevention](#)
- [U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook](#)

The charitable arm of the AVMA

OTHER AVMA SITES

[National Pet Veterinary](#)

ENHANCING PETS' LIVES THROUGH THE PREVENTIVE

11:57 AM

STATE LAWS AFFECTING ANIMALS IN EMERGENCIES

- Immunity from **Liability for Good Samaritan Acts** (26 VSA, *subsection 2405*)
 - Includes emergencies and disasters such as fires, floods, vehicular collisions, etc.
 - Protects laymen as well as veterinarians from civil liability, *except* in cases of
 - Gross negligence
 - Reimbursement for services
- NO. 209. AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY.
 - Adds **animal rescue representative** to local emergency planning committees
 - **Release of liability** for housing pets during disasters and disaster drills

FEDERAL LAW: PETS EVACUATION AND TRANSPORTATION STANDARDS ACT (PETS)

OCTOBER, 2006

Mandates that local and state emergency management officials “**take into account the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency**” when developing emergency preparedness operational plans.

Allows FEMA to make financial contributions to programs or projects “for animal emergency preparedness purposes, including the procurement, construction, leasing, or renovating of emergency shelter facilities and materials that will accommodate people with pets and service animals.”



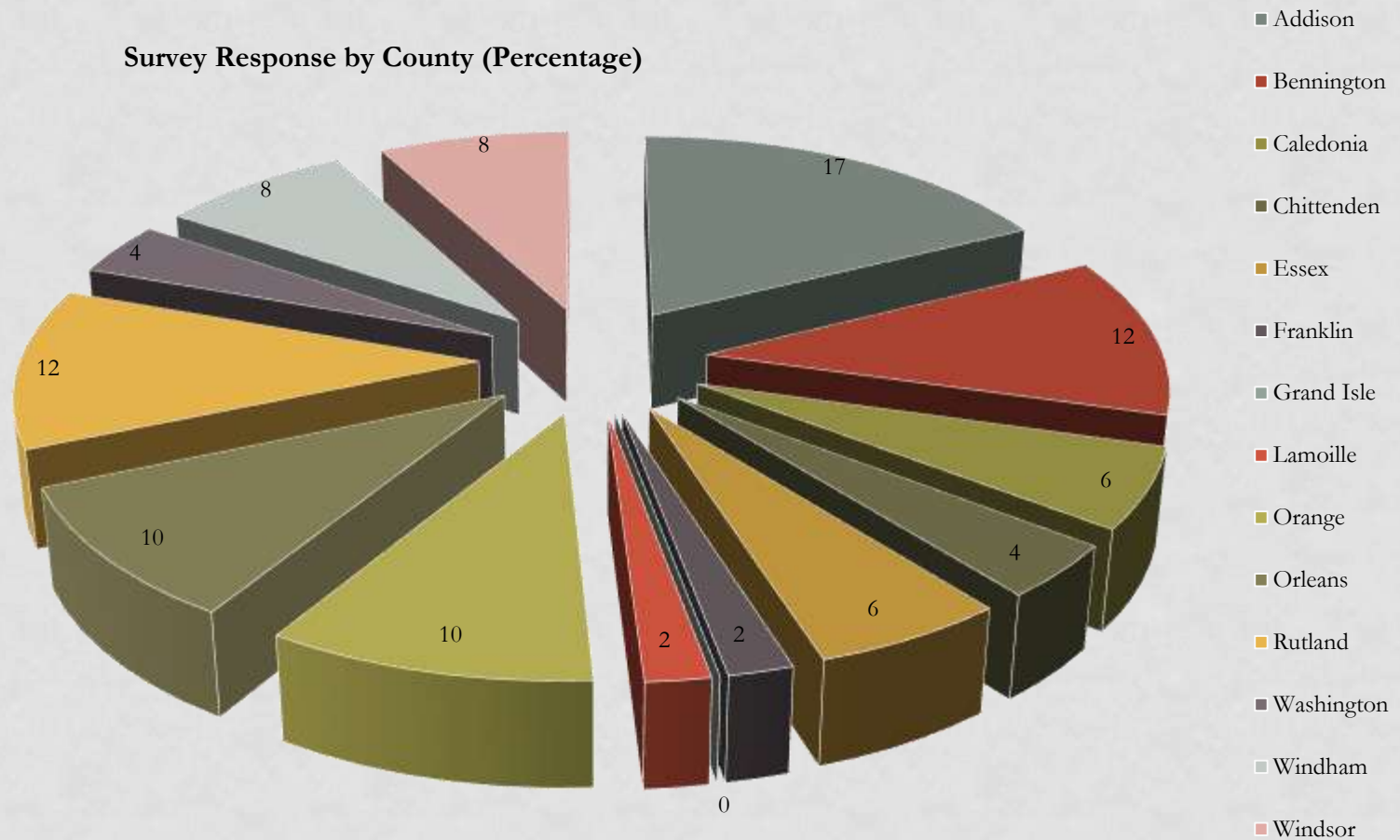
PETS AND PLANNING: A SURVEY OF MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS IN VERMONT



METHODS AND RESULTS

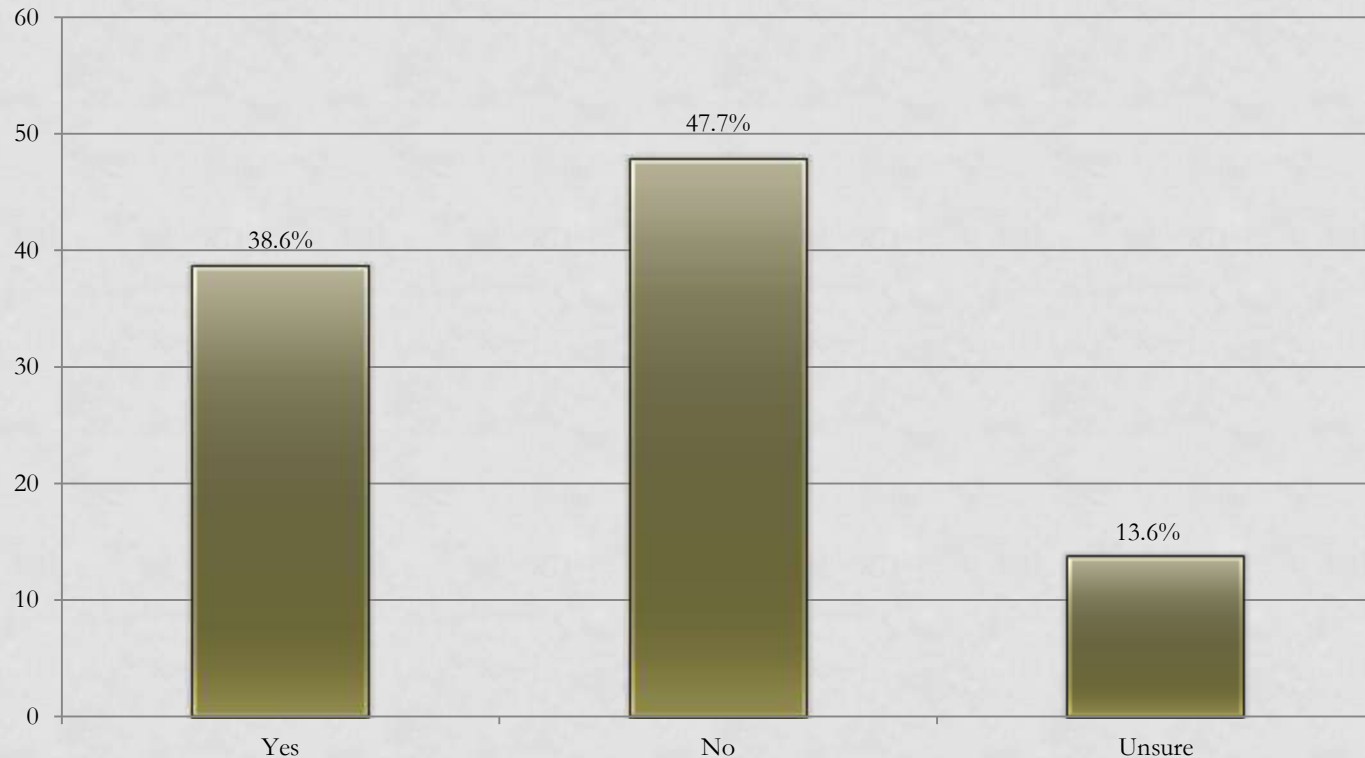
- Goal was to determine the capacity of Vermont towns for pet disaster preparedness & response, as well as to provide additional resources to assist towns in further planning
- Six-Question Survey sent to 11 Regional Planning Commissions for distribution to local EMDs.
- 51 survey responses were received

PERCENT OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS FROM EACH COUNTY IN VERMONT



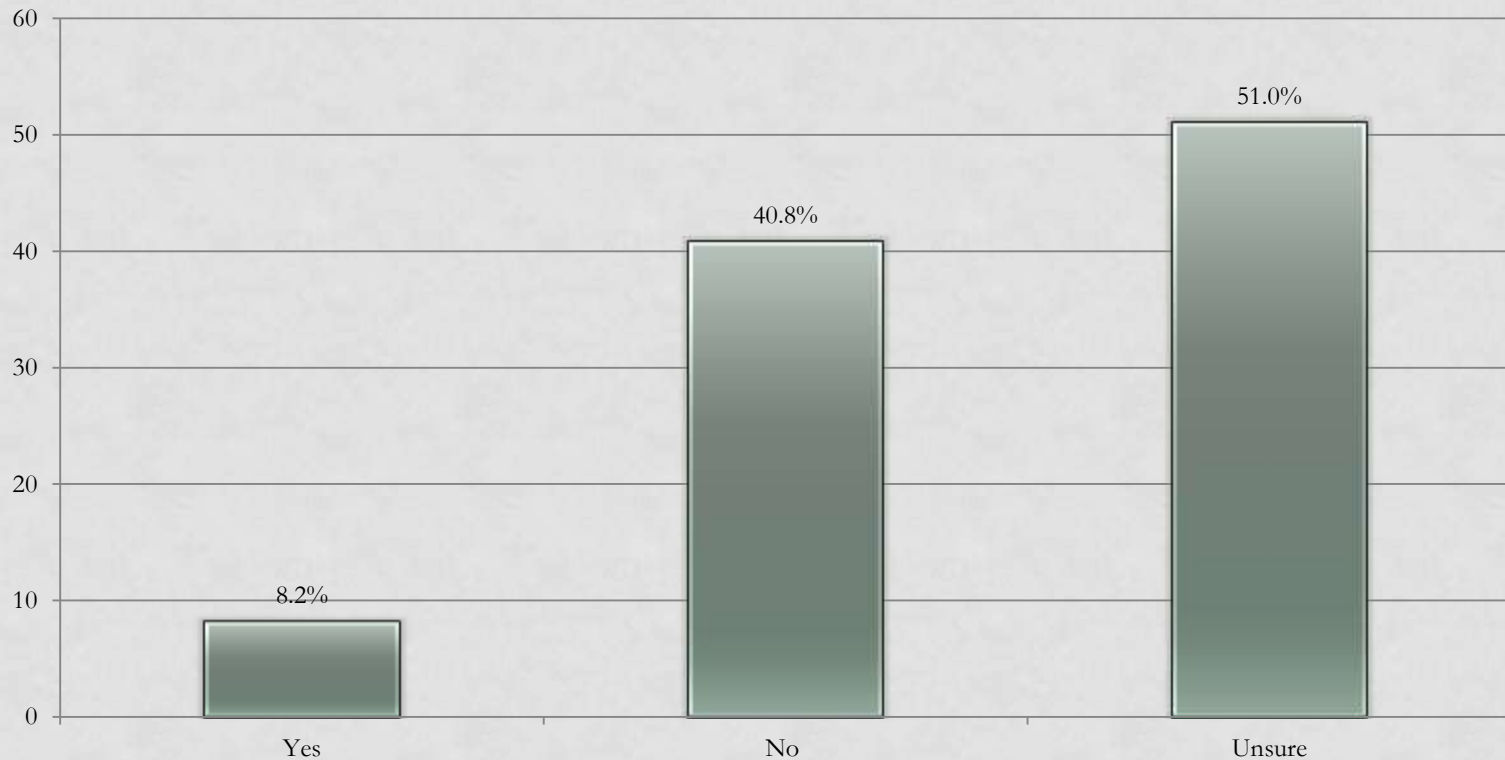
PERCENTAGE OF TOWNS THAT INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR PET IN THEIR EMERGENCY PLANS

Towns with Provisions for Pets in Emergency Plans (Q2)



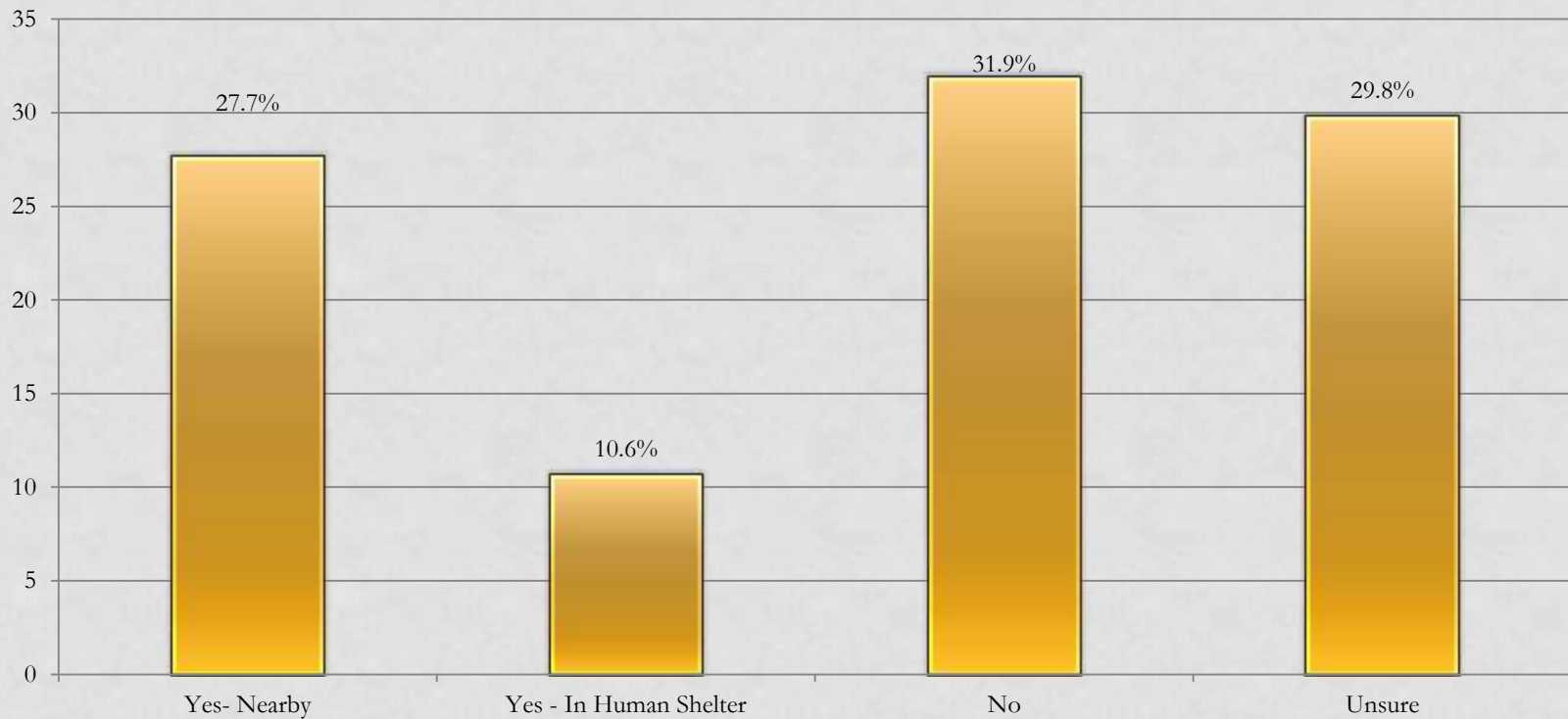
PERCENTAGE OF TOWNS WHOSE COMMUNITY MEMBERS KNOW HOW AND WHEN TO SAFELY EVACUATE WITH THEIR PETS

Towns with Community Members Prepared for Evacuation (Q3)

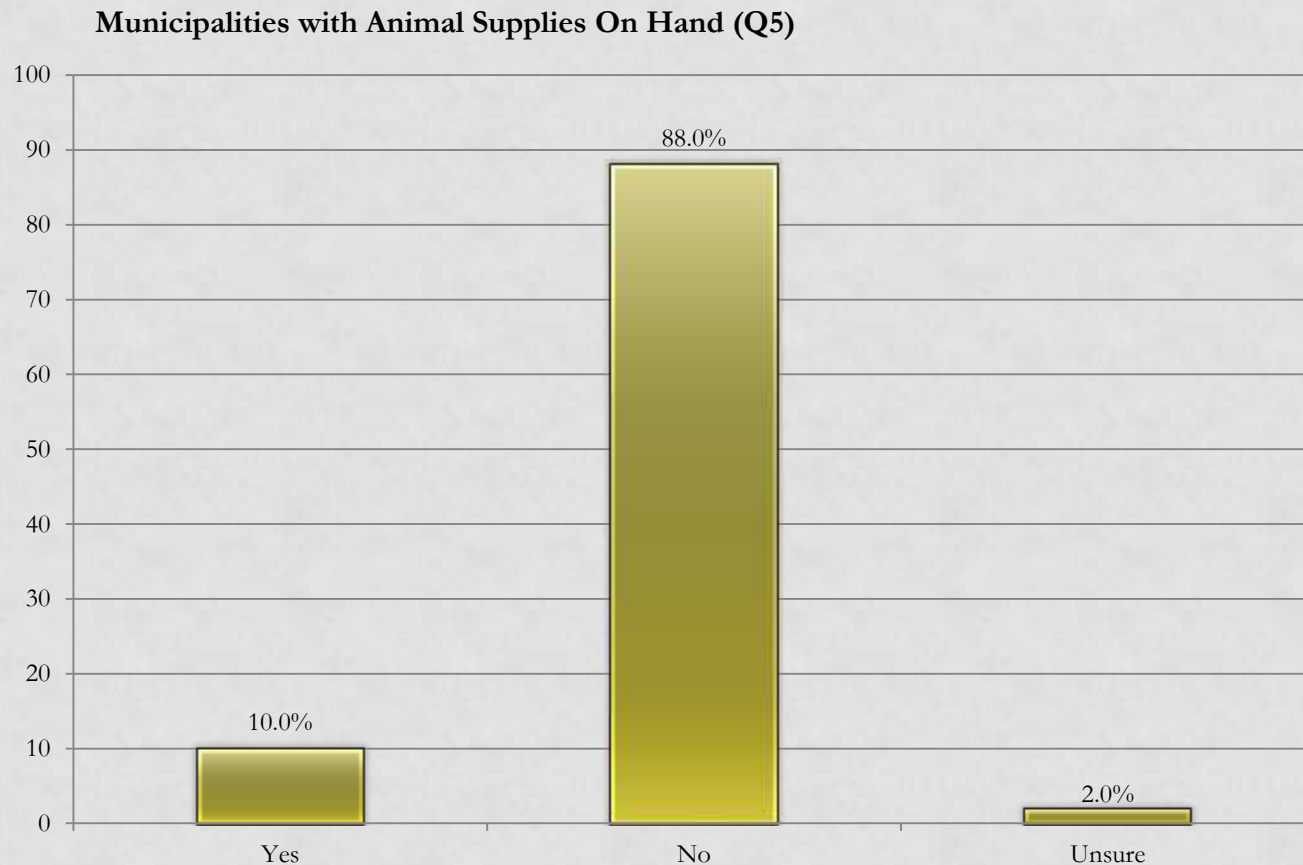


TOWNS WITH IDENTIFIED SAFE LOCATIONS TO WHICH PEOPLE AND PETS CAN EVACUATE

Towns with Adequate Safe Locations (Q4)

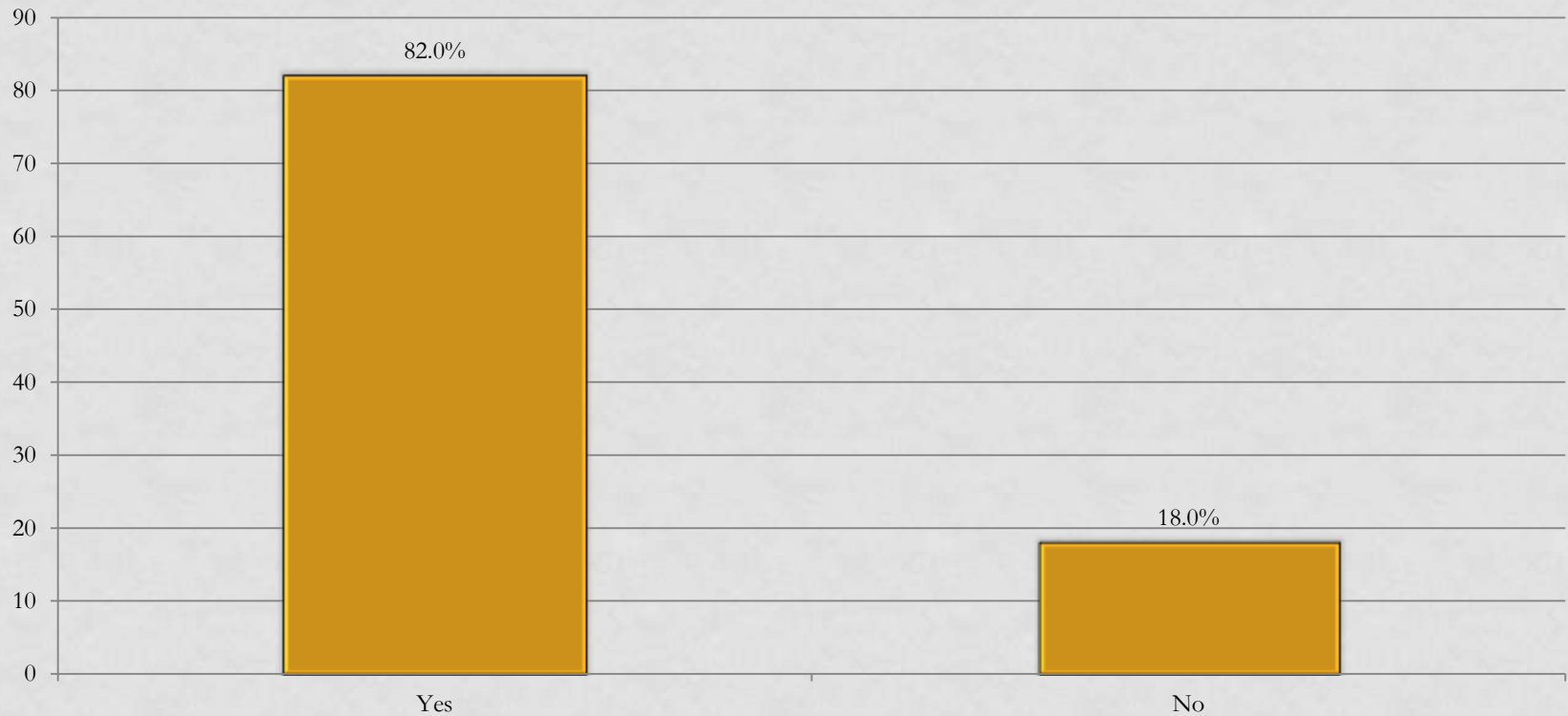


MUNICIPALITIES THAT HAVE ANIMAL SUPPLIES ON HAND FOR USE IN A DISASTER OR EMERGENCY



MUNICIPALITIES INTERESTED IN RECEIVING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM VDART

Municipalities Requesting Additional Information (Q6)



COMMON THEMES

- A majority of Vermont EMDs surveyed:
 - Don't include pets in emergency plans
 - Don't have community members prepared to evacuate with their pets
 - Don't have safe locations to shelter people with their pets (or pets close by)
 - Don't have supplies on hand to shelter pets

RECOMMENDATIONS

- VDART should continue to be resource to LEPCs and RPCs, and help to identify local animal liaisons.
- Follow up with local EMDs who received Operations Manual to determine usefulness and answer questions
- Repeat survey in 6-12 months
- Target LEPCs 1, 4, 5, 11, and 13 as there were no or few survey responses received from these regions
- Establish working relationships between local EMDs and local animal shelters and Chartered Teams.

ANIMAL RESOURCES DIRECTORY

HTTP://VEM.VERMONT.GOV/LOCAL_STATE_PLANS/LOCAL

Animal Resources During an Emergency

Directions

- Reach out to emergency contacts. Define responsibilities and how information will be shared.
- Make contact with animal shelters to learn of availability/capacity/needs.
- Make contact with emergency veterinarians.
- Local Emergency Contacts

Is there a regional Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) that serves your community?

Y

N

Name of Person completing this form		Date and Time	
-------------------------------------	--	---------------	--

Regional DART Chair		
Name	Contact Number	Secondary contact number

Local Animal Shelter Manager		
Name	Contact Number	Secondary contact number

Local Emergency Vet contact		
Name	Contact Number	Secondary contact number

Local Animal Control Officer		
Name	Contact Number	Secondary contact number

LOCAL, STATE & NATIONAL RESOURCES

- Local
 - VDART Chartered Teams
 - Chittenden/Grand Isle DART
 - Upper Valley DART
 - Windham DART
 - Rutland Area Disaster Animal Response Team (RADART)
 - LEPC #5 (Central Vermont) DART
 - American Red Cross
- State
 - VDART
- National
 - Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)
 - American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
 - Red Rover
 - American Humane

VDART BOARD/ADVISORS

- Private Shelters & Rescues
- Animal Control
- American Red Cross
- CERT
- Vermont Veterinary Medical Association
- Chartered Team Members
- VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
- VT Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security
- USDA/APHIS



VDART HISTORY/MISSION

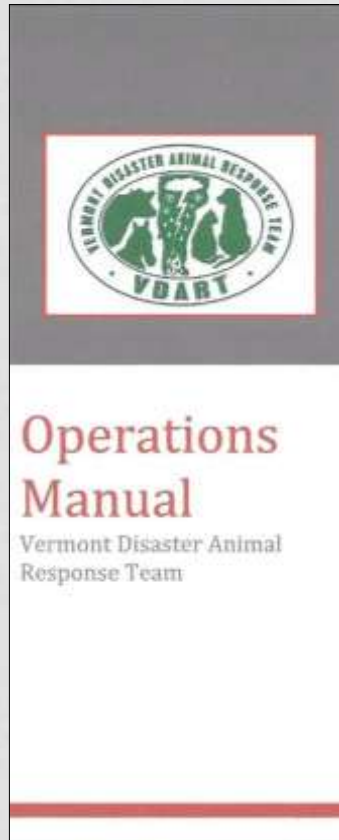
- Established in 2007 to strengthen and support the state's capacity to respond to animal needs in the event of a disaster.
- Provides vital educational resources and advice to pet owners, animal-related businesses and non-profits, local communities, and state agencies.
- Provides uniformity and excellence in response to animal needs by
 - training and exercising our volunteers in best practices;
 - supporting the development of regional DART teams throughout the state; and
 - providing local emergency managers with guidance on including the community's pet population in local response plans.

VDART SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE

- Damage assessment
- Retrieval, evaluation and care for displaced animals in temporary emergency animal shelters
- Veterinary care
- Evacuation support for animals
- Relocation and support for disaster-affected animal facilities
- Assistance at EOC on animal-related issues, donations, volunteer management, and/or media issues

VDART ASSETS

- Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailers
- Chartered Teams & Volunteers
- Operations Manual
 - Standardized Forms
 - Standardized Protocols
 - Activation Procedures
 - Animal Handling Tips
- Website
 - www.VermontDART.org
 - One-stop shopping!



PLANNING

- Review local and state operational plans for animals
- Exercise participation
- Foster development of regional response teams for animals
- Public Education
- Best Practices



REQUIRED TRAINING



- IS – 100 Intro to Incident Command System
- IS -700A National Incident Management System
- IS-10 Animals in Disaster (Awareness/Prep)
- IS -11 Animals in Disaster (Community Planning)
- IS-111 Livestock in Disaster
- Emergency Animal Sheltering Course – Basic



ADDITIONAL TRAINING/EXPERIENCE

- Technical Animal Rescue
- Swift Water Rescue
- CERT Training
- Pet First Aid
- Hazardous Materials Training
- Ice Rescue Training
- Red Cross Disaster Training
- Local animal shelter volunteering

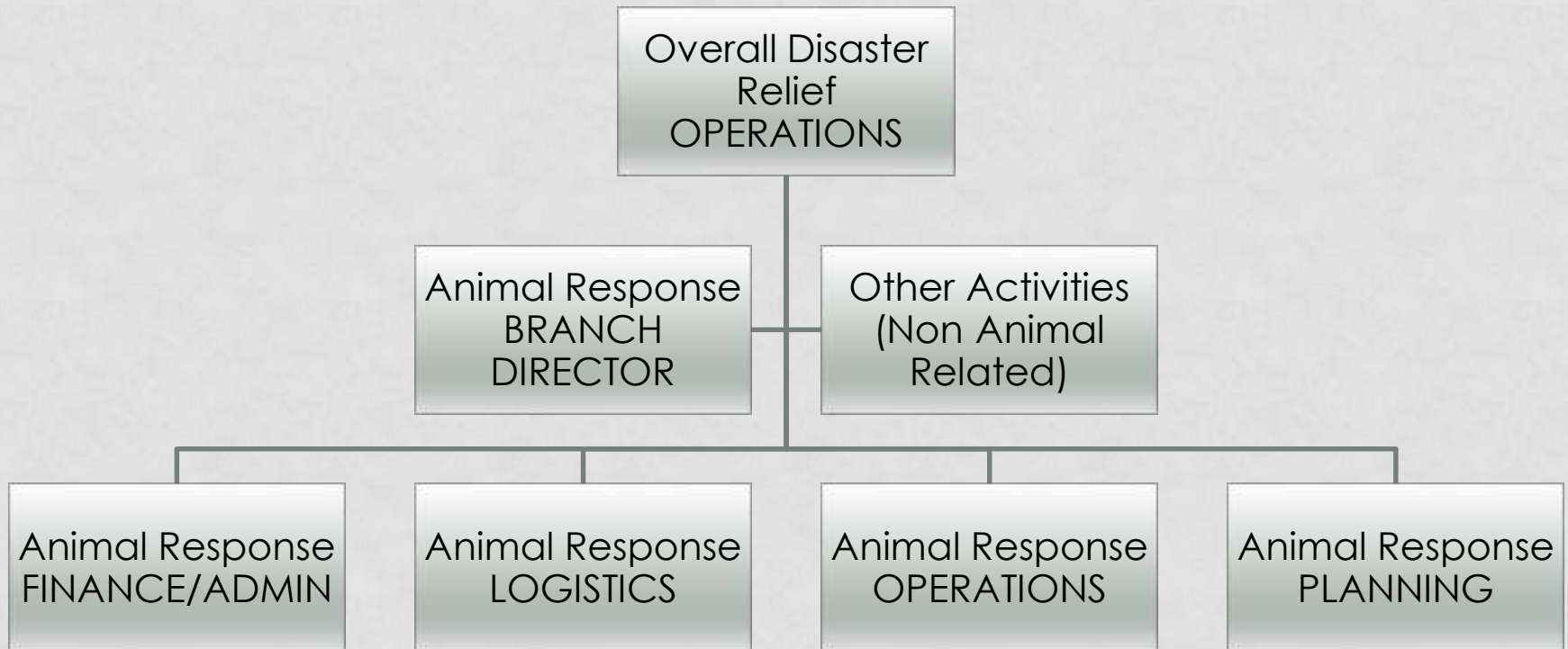


RESPONSE

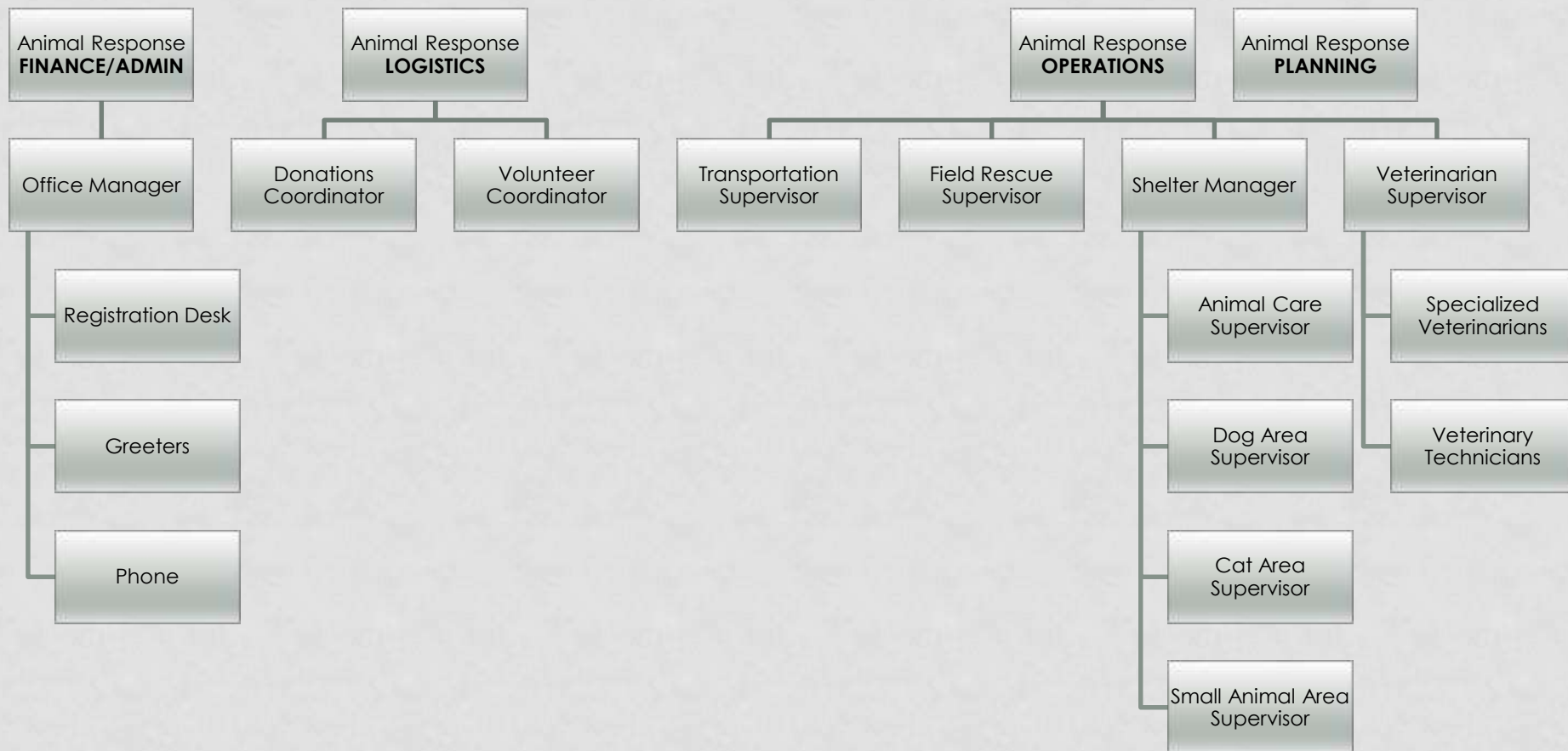
- Teams can respond locally or statewide
- Work in cooperation with existing response agencies



EXAMPLE OF ANIMAL RESPONSE ORGANIZATION UNDER ICS



A DEEPER LOOK AT ANIMAL RESPONSE ICS STRUCTURE



ACTIVATION PROTOCOLS

- **General Provisions**

- DART teams operate under NIMS and ICS at all times.
- DART teams work under the authority in charge.
- DART volunteers have same immunity protections as CERT volunteers.
- Regional Teams may also enter into agreements with their local emergency management officials to respond to smaller scale disasters.

ACTIVATION PROTOCOLS

- **SEOC Activated/Operational (Partial or Full)**
 - IC or EMD contacts SEOC Operations section to request DART services by providing:
 - Name of agency requesting assistance, contact name(s) and phone number(s).
 - Team assignment information.
 - Operations section routes written request to Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAF), representing SSF11, for approval.
 - SSF11 approves request in writing and conveys to DEMHS watch officer and VDART.

ACTIVATION PROTOCOLS

- **SEOC Not Activated – During Business Hours**
 - IC or EMD contacts VAAFM or DEMHS watch officer to request DART services in writing by providing:
 - Name of agency requesting assistance
 - Contact names/phone numbers
 - DART team assignment information
 - State Veterinarian approves request in writing and notifies DEMHS watch officer in writing of DART activation.
 - DEMHS watch officer acknowledges DART activation in writing.

ACTIVATION PROTOCOLS

- **SEOC Not Activated – Outside of Business Hours**
 - IC or EMD contacts DEMHS watch officer, who routes request to state veterinarian
 - State Veterinarian establishes direct contact with requesting IC/EMD and receives request in writing with the following information:
 - Name of agency requesting assistance
 - Contact names/phone numbers
 - DART team assignment information
 - State Veterinarian approves request in writing and notifies DEMHS watch officer in writing of DART activation.
 - DEMHS watch officer acknowledges DART activation in writing.

ACTIVATION PROTOCOLS

- **Non-Emergency (Promotional & Training Activities)**
 - DART team provides written notice to State Veterinarian during State business hours and no later than 48 hours prior to the start of the event with the following information:
 - Date and time of event
 - Location of event
 - Nature of event
 - Name of training
 - Purpose of promotional activity
 - State Veterinarian acknowledges event via return email to DART representative and notifies DEMHS watch officer in writing.

RECOVERY

- Short- and Long-Term Foster Care Programs
- Rehoming
- Relocation



“Disasters are the great levelers in the literal and figurative sense. They often bring rich and poor, human and animal, to a common state. Disasters teach us that we are all in this together and by working together we increase the chances that we all will survive.”

*Dr. Randall Lockwood,
Former Vice President, The HSUS*



QUESTIONS



CONTACT ME

Joanne Bourbeau
Northeastern Regional Director
Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)
PO Box 619
Jacksonville, VT 05342
802-368-2790 (work)
301-529-3378 (cell)
jbourbeau@humanesociety.org